

March 7, 1985

PRESIDENT MCGINLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Members, please rise for the prayer from Chaplain Robert Palmer.

CHAPLAIN PALMER: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Chaplain. Members, please record your presence. Roll call. Members, please record your presence. Members outside the Chamber, we are attempting to acquire a quorum in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We are attempting to begin our legislative day, so come on in and record your presence. Roll call is in progress. Members are asked to record your presence so that we may begin our legislative day. The honor given to Senator Higgins this morning is going to make the great statement for all of womanhood as part of the great human scene. Please record your presence, roll call is in progress. Do you want to record the roll, Mr. Clerk, and then we will move on.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

CLERK: Quorum present, the Legislature is in session and the Chair has the privilege of introducing this morning for the special purpose of this week (gavel)...can we have order, please, Senator Marge Higgins. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, colleagues, for the honor of presenting to you today the woman who was most influential in my life. She was born at the turn of the century in 1900. She was a girl of the twenties that liked to dance the Charleston and the Blackbottom. She became a woman of the thirties, left with five children to support through the depression. She was of the ragtime and jazz era and she believed in living life to the fullest. I remember when the bill collectors would call her employer and he would threaten to fire her if she didn't do something about a payment on a past due bill. On those days she would come home, sit down at the old upright piano we were given by a neighbor and begin playing, "Smile, Though Your Heart Is Aching". Then she would play, "Melancholy Baby". And before very long she was into a ragtime piece or "Happy Days Are Here Again". She didn't allow herself to become discouraged. She had an indomitable spirit. She would never let anything discourage her. She